

Today marks the hundredth day President Barack Obama has stood as the leader of our nation. During his brief time in office, President Obama has worked closely with my colleagues and I in Congress to address the substantial challenges before us. These are some of the most serious challenges our nation has ever faced, including a meltdown in the housing market, the credit crisis and rapidly growing unemployment. Together we have made great progress toward getting our country back on the right track, delivering the change that Americans asked for in November.

We have enacted landmark legislation just a few months into the 111th Congress:

- [\*\*The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act\*\*](#) – In the midst of the worst economic climate since the Depression, Congress enacted legislation to create and save 3.5 million jobs, jumpstart our economy, and stimulate growth for the 21 st Century
  
- [\*\*Children's Health insurance coverage\*\*](#) – Millions of children lack health insurance and are unable to visit doctors for routine and preventative care that will enable them to live longer, healthier lives. This lack of access is particularly troubling considering the rapid increase in the number of children with chronic conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure. The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) provides cost-effective health care coverage for millions of America's children.
  
- [\*\*The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act\*\*](#) – Lily Ledbetter was denied justice by the Supreme Court because of an extremely narrow reading of existing law. In order to restore and strengthen the rights of women and other workers who face wage discrimination Congress acted swiftly to pass this legislation.
  
- [\*\*The Omnibus Public Lands Management Act\*\*](#) – For too long, we have been presented the false choice that we can either protect our environment or achieve economic prosperity. This bill, our nation's most significant land conservation measure in 15 years, does both. It designates millions of acres of wilderness, safeguards more than 1,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers, and takes other measures to protect our national treasures while allowing communities near these areas to flourish through tourism that drives their local economy, which depends on good stewardship of the environment.
  
- [\*\*The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act\*\*](#) – With our public needs intensifying in this recession, there is no better time to support and energize community service and

## 100 Days of the Obama Presidency

Written by Mike Honda  
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volunteerism to help our country get through this economic crisis, restore confidence, and prepare our nation for the future. This bill will triple the number of volunteerism opportunities through national service programs to 250,000.

New challenges will come across our path, most recently the H1N1 flu, sometimes referred to as the “swine flu”. This disease has the potential to lead to an international pandemic if not properly addressed, and provides yet another example of the critical importance of making investments in our nation’s infrastructure to ensure the safety of the American people. You can find more [information about the H1N1 virus](#) from the Committee on Homeland Security (pdf). Congress will be aggressively pursuing emergency efforts to combat the outbreaks, and the biomedical research facilities in our area will be able to assist in preventing future outbreaks as well.

In the face of national adversity, whether medical or financial, our community will be integral in assisting with the challenges ahead of us. The innovations of Silicon Valley are one of our nation’s greatest engines of economic strength, and it is critical that the federal government fosters an environment that supports the entrepreneurial spirit that drives that growth.

While we have made substantial progress in many areas over the past 100 days, there is still yet much more to be done. The challenges ahead are daunting, but with the continuing leadership of President Obama I believe that we will succeed in bringing about a brighter future for our nation.